

APPLICATION
FOR
UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

TITLE: METHOD OF PROPHYLAXIS OR TREATMENT OF
ANTIGEN PRESENTING CELL DRIVEN SKIN
CONDITIONS USING INHIBITORS OF THE CD2/LFA-3
INTERACTION

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METHOD OF PROPHYLAXIS OR TREATMENT OF ANTIGEN
PRESENTING CELL DRIVEN SKIN CONDITIONS
USING INHIBITORS OF THE CD2/LFA-3 INTERACTION

This application is a continuation-in-part of USSN 07/862,022, filed April 2, 1992 and of PCT/US92/08755, filed October 6, 1992, which is a continuation-in-part of USSN 07/770,969, filed October 7, 1991, all of which are herein incorporated by reference.

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TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to methods of using inhibitors of the CD2/LFA-3 interaction in treating skin conditions characterized by increased T cell activation and abnormal antigen presentation in the dermis and epidermis in mammals, including humans. Such conditions include psoriasis, UV damage, e.g., photoaging, atopic dermatitis, cutaneous T cell lymphoma such as mycosis fungoides, allergic and irritant contact dermatitis, lichen planus, alopecia areata, pyoderma gangrenosum, vitiligo, ocular cicatricial pemphigoid, and urticaria.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 There are numerous skin conditions characterized by increased T cell activation and
abnormal antigen presentation in the dermis and epidermis. The pathophysiologic
mechanisms involved in the evolution of such inflammatory processes are poorly understood.
However, it has become apparent that skin cells are important in the generation of a
cutaneous inflammatory response (Kupper, "Immune and Inflammatory Processes in
25 Cutaneous Tissues", J. Clin. Invest., 86, pp. 1783-89 (1990)).

The normal adult epidermal population contains 1-2% Langerhans' cells and about 98% keratinocytes. Keratinocytes and other nonhematopoietically-derived cells resident in skin contribute to immune homeostasis and can produce various cytokines which influence migration of T cells and expression of adhesion molecules.

30 As antigen presenting cells, Langerhans' cells express a high density of Class II major
histocompatibility complex (MHC) antigen on the cell surface. MHC Class II molecules
bind peptides derived from endocytosed antigen and are recognized primarily by helper T
lymphocytes. The T cell receptor on T cells recognizes antigen as a peptide fragment bound
to the cell-surface molecules encoded by the MHC (Springer, "Adhesion Receptors of the
35 Immune System", *Nature*, 346, pp. 425-27 (1990)).

There are many interactions between molecules expressed on the surface of Langerhans' cells and the surface of T cells, in addition to the T cell receptor/MHC interaction. These surface molecules, often referred to as adhesion molecules, participate in a number of functions including cellular adhesion, antigen recognition, co-stimulatory

signalling in T cell activation and stimulation of effectors of T cell cytotoxicity ("Adhesion Molecules in Diagnosis and Treatment of Inflammatory Diseases", *The Lancet*, 336, pp. 1351-52 (1990)). Such cell adhesion appears to be involved in activation of T cell proliferation in the generation of an immune response (Hughes et al., "The Endothelial Cell

5 as a Regulator of T-cell Function", *Immunol. Rev.*, 117, pp. 85-102 (1990)).

Various skin conditions are characterized by increased T cell activation and abnormal antigen presentation in the dermis and epidermis (Cooper, "Immunoregulation in the Skin", in *Cutaneous Lymphoma, Curr. Probl. Dermatol.*, eds. van Vloten et al., 19, pp. 69-80 at pp. 73, 74, 76 (1990)). For example, in contact allergic dermatitis, activation of

10 intracutaneous T cells is observed. It is known that skin from patients exhibiting atopic dermatitis contains an increased number of Langerhans' cells (Cooper, "Immunoregulation in the Skin", in *Cutaneous Lymphoma, Curr. Probl. Dermatol.*, eds. van Vloten et al., 19, at p. 74 (1990)). In psoriatic skin, there is an increased number of antigen presenting cells, composed of both Langerhans' cells and non-Langerhans' cell Class II MHC-bearing antigen 15 presenting cells (Cooper, "Immunoregulation in the Skin", in *Cutaneous Lymphoma, Curr. Probl. Dermatol.*, eds. van Vloten et al., 19, at p. 75 (1990)).

UV exposed skin is characterized by an overall depletion of Langerhans' cells and migration of a non-Langerhans' cell antigen-presenting cell population into the epidermis, which activates autologous T cells to proliferate (Cooper, "Immunoregulation in the Skin" in

20 *Cutaneous Lymphoma, Curr. Probl. Dermatol.*, eds. van Vloten et al., 19, at pp. 75-76 (1990)). In human skin after 4 minimal erythema doses of UV B, Langerhans' cells (the constitutive antigen presenting cell population) are inactivated for approximately 3 days (Cooper et al., "Effects Of Ultraviolet Radiation On Human Epidermal Cell Alloantigen Presentation: Initial Depression Of Langerhans Cell-Dependent Function Is Followed By

25 Appearance Of T6-DR⁺ Cells That Enhance Epidermal Alloantigen Presentation", *J. Immunol.*, 134, pp. 129-37 (1985)). In this type of UV damaged skin, the CD1a-DR⁺ macrophage population (a population of antigen presenting cells) increases from 0% (normal skin) to approximately 2-10% of the entire epidermal cell population and is the cell population entirely responsible for the induction of T cell proliferation to alloantigen.

30 (Cooper et al., *J. Immunol.*, supra (1985); Baadsgaard et al., "In Vivo Ultraviolet-Exposed Human Epidermal Cells Activate T Suppressor Cell Pathways That Involve CD4⁺ CD45RA⁺ Suppressor-Inducer T Cells", *J. Immunol.*, 145, pp. 2854-61 (1990)).

Cutaneous T cell lymphoma is characterized by the expansion of a malignant clonal population of T cells in the dermis and epidermis. Lesional epidermal cells contain increased 35 numbers of CD1⁺DR⁺ antigen presenting cells (Cooper, "Immunoregulation in the Skin" in *Cutaneous Lymphoma, Curr. Probl. Dermatol.*, eds. van Vloten et al., 19, at pp. 76-77 (1990)).

Presently known therapies for the above mentioned skin diseases are inadequate. Steroids or cyclosporin A are commonly used in the treatment of psoriasis, lichen planus,

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urticaria, atopic dermatitis, UV damage, pyoderma gangrenosum, vitiligo, ocular cicatricial pemphigoid, alopecia areata, allergic and irritant contact dermatitis and cutaneous T cell lymphoma. In addition, for some of these skin conditions, various therapies include retinoids, PUVA, nitrogen mustard, interferon, chemotherapy, methotrexate, UV light, 5 antibiotics and antihistamines. See generally Fitzpatrick, Dermatology in General Medicine, 3rd ed., McGraw Hill (1987).

Side effects to these therapies are known. Most commonly encountered drawbacks for cyclosporin A include toxicity due to immunosuppression and renal and neural toxicity. Steroids have well known side effects including induction of Cushing Syndrome. Side 10 effects of certain of the other aforementioned therapies include skin cancer, bone marrow and constitutional toxicities, ligament calcification, liver fibrosis and other disorders.

T cells play a major role in the immune response by interacting with target and antigen presenting cells. For example, T cell-mediated killing of target cells is a multi-step process involving, initially, adhesion of cytolytic T cells (the effector cells) to target cells. 15 Also, helper T cells help initiate the immune response by adhesion to antigen presenting cells.

These interactions of T cells with target and antigen presenting cells are highly specific and depend on the recognition of an antigen on the surface of a target or antigen presenting cell by one of the many specific antigen receptors on the surface of T cells.

20 The receptor-antigen interaction of T cells and other cells is also facilitated by various T cell surface proteins, e.g., the antigen-receptor complex CD3 and accessory adhesion molecules such as CD4, LFA-1, CD8, and CD2. It is also facilitated by accessory adhesion molecules, such as LFA-3, ICAM-1 and MHC, that are expressed on the surface of the target or antigen presenting cells. For example, LFA-1 and its counter receptor ICAM-1 or ICAM- 25 2, as well as CD2 and its counter receptor LFA-3 have been implicated in cellular adhesion and T cell activation. It is known that the LFA-1/ICAM and CD2/LFA-3 interactions are independent.

A number of other molecules present on resting T cells have also been implicated in T cell adhesion, including E2 (MIC2), VLA-4 (CD49d), CD44 (Hermes, Pgp-1, ECMRIII), and 30 H19 (N4) (see Makgoba et al., "The CD2-LFA-3 and LFA-1-ICAM Pathways: Relevance to T-cell Recognition", Immunol. Today, 10, pp. 417-22 (1989)).

One way in which T cells are activated is by binding of their antigen specific T cell receptors to peptide-MHC complexes on the surface of antigen presenting cells such as macrophages. T cell activation stimulates proliferation and differentiation of two types of 35 functional T cells: helper cells, which promote the proliferation and maturation of antibody-producing B lymphocytes, and killer cells, which lyse target cells (Bierer et al., "A Monoclonal Antibody to LFA-3, the CD2 Ligand, Specifically Immobilizes Major Histocompatibility Complex Proteins", Eur. J. Immunol., 19, pp. 661-65 (1989); Springer "Adhesion Receptors of the Immune System", Nature, 346, pp. 425-34 (1990)).

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The interaction between CD2 and LFA-3 remains poorly understood with respect to activation of T cell activity. Recent studies have suggested that there is a specific interaction between CD2 (a T cell adhesion molecule) and LFA-3 (a target cell and antigen presenting cell adhesion molecule) which mediates T cell adhesion to the target or antigen presenting cells. This cell-cell adhesion has been implicated in the initiation of T cell functional responses (Dustin et al., "Purified Lymphocyte Function Associated Antigen 3 Binds to CD2 and Mediates T Lymphocyte Adhesion," *J. Exp. Med.*, 165, pp. 677-92 (1987); Springer et al., "The Lymphocyte Function-associated LFA-1, CD2, and LFA-3 Molecules: Cell Adhesion Receptors of the Immune System", *Ann. Rev. Immunol.*, 5, pp. 223-52 (1987)).

10 LFA-3, which is found on the surface of a wide variety of cells, including human erythrocytes, has become the subject of a considerable amount of study to further elucidate its role in various T cell interactions (see, e.g., Krensky et al., "The Functional Significance, Distribution, and Structure of LFA-1, LFA-2, and LFA-3: Cell Surface Antigen Associated with CTL-Target Interactions", *J. Immunol.*, 131(2), pp. 611-16 (1983); Shaw et al., "Two 15 Antigen-Independent Adhesion Pathways Used by Human Cytotoxic T-cell Clones", *Nature*, 323, pp. 262-64 (1986)). Two natural forms of LFA-3 have been identified. One form of LFA-3 ("transmembrane LFA-3") is anchored in the cell membrane by a transmembrane hydrophobic domain. cDNA encoding this form of LFA-3 has been cloned and sequenced (see, e.g., Wallner et al., "Primary Structure of Lymphocyte Function-Associated Antigen-3 20 (LFA-3)", *J. Exp. Med.*, 166, pp. 923-32 (1987)). Another form of LFA-3 is anchored to the cell membrane via a covalent linkage to phosphatidylinositol ("PI")-containing glycolipid. This latter form has been designated "PI-linked LFA-3", and cDNA encoding this form of LFA-3 has also been cloned and sequenced (Wallner et al., PCT Publn. WO 90/02181).

25 The human CD2 (T11) molecule is a 50 kD surface glycoprotein expressed on >95% of thymocytes and virtually all peripheral T lymphocytes. Biochemical analyses using specific monoclonal antibodies have suggested that CD2 is T lineage-specific and exists on the cell surface in several differentially glycosylated forms (Howard et al., "A Human T Lymphocyte Differentiation Marker Defined by Monoclonal Antibodies that Block E-Rosette Formation", *J. Immunol.*, 126, pp. 2117-22 (1981); Brown et al., in *Leukocyte Typing III*, ed. 30 McMichael, Oxford University Press, pp. 110-12 (1987); Sayre et al., "Molecular Cloning and Expression of T11 cDNAs Reveals a Receptor-Like Structure on Human T Lymphocytes", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84, pp. 2941-45 (1987)).

35 The sequence of a human CD2 gene has been reported (Seed and Aruffo, "Molecular Cloning of the CD2 Antigen, the T-cell Erythrocyte Receptor, by a Rapid Immunoselection Procedure", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84, pp. 3365-69 (1987); Sayre et al., "Molecular Cloning and Expression of T11 cDNAs Reveal a Receptor-like Structure on Human T Lymphocytes", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84, pp. 2941-45 (1987)). CD2 cDNA clones predict a cleaved signal peptide of 24 amino acid residues, an extracellular segment of 185 residues, a transmembrane domain of 25 residues and a cytoplasmic region of 117 residues

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(Sayre et al., *supra* (1987); Sewell et al., "Molecular Cloning of the Human T-Lymphocyte Surface CD2 (T11) Antigen", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 83, pp. 8718-22 (1986); Seed and Aruffo, *supra* (1987); Clayton et al., *Eur. J. Immunol.*, 17, pp. 1367-70 (1987)).

Soluble CD2 polypeptides having an LFA-3 binding domain have been reported (PCT
5 Publn. WO 90/08187).

Monoclonal antibodies to CD2, for example TS2/18, T11₁, T11₂, T11₃, and to LFA-3, for example TS2/9, have also been reported (see, e.g., Hughes et al., "The Endothelial Cell as a Regulator of T-Cell Function", *Immunol. Reviews*, 117, pp. 85-102 (1990); Meuer, "An Alternative Pathway of T-Cell Activation: A Functional Role for the 50 kD T11 Sheep
10 Erythrocyte Receptor Protein", *Cell*, 36, pp. 897-906 (1984)).

The need still exists for improved methods of preventing and treating skin conditions exhibiting increased T cell activation and abnormal antigen presentation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention generally solves many of the problems referred to above. It for the first time provides a method of preventing or treating skin conditions, characterized by increased T cell activation and abnormal antigen presentation in the dermis and epidermis, in a mammal, whereby an inhibitor of the CD2/LFA-3 interaction, is administered to the mammal. The methods of this invention are superior to previously available therapies for
20 these skin conditions for many reasons, including less immunosuppression than pre-existing therapies and more specific therapy with less general toxicity.

The method of the present invention preferably will be used in the treatment or prophylaxis of skin conditions selected from psoriasis, UV damage, e.g., photoaging, atopic dermatitis, cutaneous T cell lymphoma such as mycosis fungoides, allergic and irritant contact dermatitis, lichen planus, alopecia areata, pyoderma gangrenosum, vitiligo, ocular cicatricial pemphigoid, and urticaria, preferably psoriasis or UV damage.
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Inhibitors that can be used in accordance with the method of the present invention include any molecule that inhibits the CD2/LFA-3 interaction. Preferably, the inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of anti-LFA-3 antibody homologs, anti-CD2 antibody homologs, soluble LFA-3 polypeptides, small molecules, e.g., carbohydrates, soluble CD2 polypeptides, CD2 or LFA-3 mimetic agents and derivatives thereof.
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates the percent inhibition caused by an anti-LFA-3 monoclonal antibody (7A6) or an anti-CD2 monoclonal antibody (TS2/18) as compared to a non-specific control IgG₁ antibody (MOPC21) of autologous T cell activation by psoriatic epidermal cells in 4 patients.
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Figure 2 illustrates the inhibition of allogeneic T cell activation by UV damaged epidermal cells ([³H]TdR incorporation) caused by an anti-LFA-3 monoclonal antibody

(1E6) or an anti-CD2 monoclonal antibody (TS2/18) as compared to a non-specific IgG antibody (MOPC21).

Figure 3 illustrates the inhibition of autologous mononuclear cell responses to psoriatic epidermal cells ($[^3\text{H}]$ TdR incorporation) caused by an LFA3TIP fusion molecule as compared to a human IgG control.

Figure 4 illustrates the effect of LFA3TIP on spontaneous lesional psoriatic dermal cell proliferation. A reduction in spontaneous dermal cell proliferation ($[^3\text{H}]$ TdR incorporation) was seen with dose responses between 0.03 and 0.003 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of LFA3TIP. LFA3TIP cultures are consistently less proliferative than the human IgG control cultures through the concentration of 0.01 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$.

Figure 5 illustrates the inhibition of allogeneic mononuclear cell responses to normal epidermal cells ($[^3\text{H}]$ TdR incorporation) caused by an LFA3TIP fusion molecule as compared to a human IgG control.

Figure 6 illustrates the inhibition of autologous mononuclear cell responses to psoriatic dermal cells ($[^3\text{H}]$ TdR incorporation) caused by an LFA3TIP fusion molecule as compared to a human IgG control.

Figure 7 illustrates the inhibition of inflammatory macrophage APC activity in UV-exposed epidermal cells (EC) ($[^3\text{H}]$ TdR incorporation) caused by an LFA3TIP fusion molecule as compared to a human IgG control. Two concentrations of UV-EC are shown in panel 7A and 7B. LFA3TIP incubation resulted in approximately 50% inhibition.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Definitions

As used herein, "CD2" means a CD2 polypeptide that binds to a naturally occurring

LFA-3 polypeptide and which is encoded by (a) a naturally occurring mammalian CD2 DNA sequence (e.g., SEQ ID NO:5); (b) a DNA sequence degenerate to a naturally occurring CD2 DNA sequence; or (c) a DNA sequence that hybridizes to one of the foregoing DNA sequences under conditions equivalent to about 20°C to 27°C below T_m and 1 M sodium chloride.

As used herein, "LFA-3" means an LFA-3 polypeptide that binds to a naturally occurring CD2 polypeptide and which is encoded by (a) a naturally occurring mammalian LFA-3 DNA sequence (e.g., SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3); (b) a DNA sequence degenerate to a naturally occurring LFA-3 DNA sequence; or (c) a DNA sequence that hybridizes to one of the foregoing DNA sequences under conditions to about 20°C to 27°C below T_m and 1 M sodium chloride.

As used herein, a "soluble LFA-3 polypeptide" or a "soluble CD2 polypeptide" is an LFA-3 or CD2 polypeptide incapable of anchoring itself in a membrane. Such soluble polypeptides include, for example, CD2 and LFA-3 polypeptides that lack a sufficient portion of their membrane spanning domain to anchor the polypeptide or are modified such that the

membrane spanning domain is non-functional. As used herein soluble LFA-3 polypeptides include full-length or truncated (e.g., with internal deletions) PI-linked LFA-3.

As used herein, an "antibody homolog" is a protein comprising one or more polypeptides selected from immunoglobulin light chains, immunoglobulin heavy chains and

5 antigen-binding fragments thereof which are capable of binding to one or more antigens. The component polypeptides of an antibody homolog composed of more than one polypeptide may optionally be disulfide-bound or otherwise covalently crosslinked. Accordingly, antibody homologs include intact immunoglobulins of types IgA, IgG, IgE, IgD, IgM (as well as subtypes thereof), wherein the light chains of the immunoglobulin may be of types kappa

10 or lambda. Antibody homologs also include portions of intact immunoglobulins that retain antigen-binding specificity, for example, Fab fragments, Fab' fragments, F(ab')₂ fragments, F(v) fragments, heavy chain monomers or dimers, light chain monomers or dimers, dimers consisting of one heavy and one light chain, and the like.

As used herein, a "humanized recombinant antibody homolog" is an antibody

15 homolog, produced by recombinant DNA technology, in which some or all of the amino acids of a human immunoglobulin light or heavy chain that are not required for antigen binding have been substituted for the corresponding amino acids from a nonhuman mammalian immunoglobulin light or heavy chain.

As used herein, a "chimeric recombinant antibody homolog" is an antibody homolog,

20 produced by recombinant DNA technology, in which all or part of the hinge and constant regions of an immunoglobulin light chain, heavy chain, or both, have been substituted for the corresponding regions from another immunoglobulin light chain or heavy chain.

Skin Conditions

25 The methods of this invention are useful to prevent or treat mammalian, including human, skin conditions characterized by increased T cell activation and abnormal antigen presentation in the dermis and epidermis, by administering inhibitors of the CD2/LFA-3 interaction. Such conditions include psoriasis, UV damage, atopic dermatitis, cutaneous T cell lymphoma such as mycosis fungoides, allergic and irritant contact dermatitis, lichen

30 planus, alopecia areata, pyoderma gangrenosum, vitiligo, ocular cicatricial pemphigoid, and urticaria. It is to be understood that methods of treatment and prophylaxis of skin conditions such as pyoderma gangrenosum and urticaria are included within the scope of the present invention. These latter skin conditions are also cyclosporin A sensitive dermatoses and therefore involve T cell activation. Preferably, the methods of the invention are used in the

35 prophylaxis or treatment of psoriasis or UV damage. The methods of the invention may be practiced on any mammal, preferably on humans.

While not wishing to be bound by theory, applicants believe that inhibitors of the CD2/LFA-3 interaction used in accordance with the methods of this invention are prophylactic and therapeutic for the treatment of the aforementioned skin conditions because

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they inhibit the interaction between T cells and antigen presenting cells, resulting in, among other things, an inhibition of T cell proliferation and activation. Applicants believe that adverse effects of skin conditions of the type discussed herein are due to such T cell proliferation and activation. Applicants believe that the methods of the present invention are 5 superior to previously available therapies for these skin conditions for a number of reasons, including, inhibition of antigen specific interactions for all antigens present, inhibition of T cell activation , no general immunosuppression and, possibly, induction of tolerance.

In particular, applicants believe that use of the methods of this invention will result in more specific targeting of therapy to T cells actually in the initiating stage of the lesion with 10 no effect on polymorphonuclear leukocytes or macrophage mediated effector mechanisms. Accordingly, the patient will be less susceptible to infections than with steroids or other general immunosuppressants. Thus, methods of inhibiting T cell activation, as provided herein, are prophylactic and therapeutic for such skin conditions.

15 Inhibitors Of The CD2/LFA-3 Interaction

Any inhibitor of the CD2/LFA-3 interaction is useful in the methods of this invention. Such inhibitors include anti-LFA-3 antibody homologs, anti-CD2 antibody homologs, soluble LFA-3 polypeptides, soluble CD2 polypeptides, small molecules, e.g., carbohydrates, LFA-3 and CD2 mimetic agents and derivatives thereof. Preferred inhibitors are soluble 20 LFA-3 polypeptides and anti-LFA-3 antibody homologs.

The utility in the methods of this invention of specific soluble CD2 polypeptides, soluble LFA-3 polypeptides, anti-LFA-3 antibody homologs, anti-CD2 antibody homologs or CD2 and LFA-3 mimetic agents may easily be determined by assaying their ability to inhibit the LFA-3/CD2 interaction. This ability may be assayed, for example, using a simple cell 25 binding assay that permits visual (under magnification) evaluation of the ability of the putative inhibitor to inhibit the interaction between LFA-3 and CD2 on cells bearing these molecules. Jurkat cells are preferred as the CD2⁺ substrate and sheep red blood cells or human JY cells are preferred as the LFA-3⁺ substrate. The binding characteristics of soluble polypeptides, antibody homologs and mimetic agents useful in this invention may be assayed 30 in several known ways, such as by radiolabeling the antibody homolog, polypeptide or agent (e.g., ³⁵S or ¹²⁵I) and then contacting the labeled polypeptide, mimetic agent or antibody homolog with CD2⁺ of LFA-3⁺ cells, as appropriate. Binding characteristics may also be assayed using an appropriate enzymatically labelled secondary antibody. Rosetting competition assays such as those described by Seed et al. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 84, 35 pp. 3365-69 (1987)) may also be used.

A. Anti-LFA-3 And Anti-CD2 Antibody Homologs

Many types of anti-LFA-3 or anti-CD2 antibody homologs are useful in the methods of this invention. These include monoclonal antibodies, recombinant antibodies, chimeric

recombinant antibodies, humanized recombinant antibodies, as well as antigen-binding portions of the foregoing.

Among the anti-LFA-3 antibody homologs, it is preferable to use monoclonal anti-LFA-3 antibodies. It is more preferable to use a monoclonal anti-LFA-3 antibody produced by a hybridoma selected from the group of hybridomas having Accession Nos. ATCC HB 10693 (1E6), ATCC HB 10694 (HC-1B11), ATCC HB 10695 (7A6), and ATCC HB 10696 (8B8), or the monoclonal antibody known as TS2/9 (Sanchez-Madrid et al., "Three Distinct Antigens Associated with Human T-Lymphocyte-Mediated Cytolysis: LFA-1, LFA-2 and LFA-3", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 79, pp. 7489-93 (1982)). Most preferably, the monoclonal anti-LFA-3 antibody is produced by a hybridoma selected from the group of hybridomas having Accession Nos. ATCC HB 10695 (7A6) and ATCC HB 10693 (1E6).

Among the anti-CD2 antibody homologs, it is preferable to use monoclonal anti-CD2 antibodies, such as the anti-CD2 monoclonal antibodies known as the T11₁ epitope antibodies, including TS2/18 (Sanchez-Madrid et al., "Three Distinct Antigens Associated with Human T-Lymphocyte-Mediated Cytolysis: LFA-1, LFA-2 and LFA-3", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 79, pp. 7489-93 (1982)).

The technology for producing monoclonal antibodies is well known. Briefly, an immortal cell line (typically myeloma cells) is fused to lymphocytes (typically splenocytes) from a mammal immunized with preparation comprising a given antigen, and the culture supernatants of the resulting hybridoma cells are screened for antibodies against the antigen. See generally, Kohler et al., Nature, "Continuous Cultures of Fused Cells Secreting Antibody of Predefined Specificity", 256, pp. 495-97 (1975). Useful immunogens for the purpose of this invention include CD2- or LFA-3-bearing cells, as well as cell free preparations containing LFA-3, CD2 or counter receptor-binding fragments thereof (e.g., CD2 fragments that bind to LFA-3 or LFA-3 fragments that bind to CD2).

Immunization may be accomplished using standard procedures. The unit dose and immunization regimen depend on the species of mammal immunized, its immune status, the body weight of the mammal, etc. Typically, the immunized mammals are bled and the serum from each blood sample is assayed for particular antibodies using appropriate screening assays. For example, useful anti-LFA-3 or anti-CD2 antibodies may be identified by testing the ability of the immune serum to block sheep red blood cell rosetting of Jurkat cells, which results from the presence of LFA-3 and CD2 on the respective surfaces of these cells. The lymphocytes used in the production of hybridoma cells typically are isolated from immunized mammals whose sera have already tested positive for the presence of the desired antibodies using such screening assays.

Typically, the immortal cell line (e.g., a myeloma cell line) is derived from the same mammalian species as the lymphocytes. Preferred immortal cell lines are mouse myeloma cell lines that are sensitive to culture medium containing hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine ("HAT medium").

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Typically, HAT-sensitive mouse myeloma cells are fused to mouse splenocytes using polyethylene glycol ("PEG") 3350. Hybridoma cells resulting from the fusion are then selected using HAT medium, which kills unfused and unproductively fused myeloma cells (unfused splenocytes die after several days because they are not transformed). Hybridomas producing a desired antibody are detected by screening the hybridoma culture supernatants, for example, for the ability to bind to their respective counter receptor, or for their ability to block Jurkat cell adhesion to sheep red blood cells. Subcloning of the hybridoma cultures by limiting dilution is typically performed to ensure monoclonality.

To produce anti-LFA-3 or anti-CD2 monoclonal antibodies, hybridoma cells that tested positive in such screening assays are cultured in a nutrient medium under conditions and for a time sufficient to allow the hybridoma cells to secrete the monoclonal antibodies into the culture medium. Tissue culture techniques and culture media suitable for hybridoma cells are well known. The conditioned hybridoma culture supernatant may be collected and the desired antibodies optionally further purified by well-known methods.

15 Alternatively, the desired antibody may be produced by injecting the hybridoma cells into the peritoneal cavity of a pristane-primed mouse. The hybridoma cells proliferate in the peritoneal cavity, secreting the antibody, which accumulates as ascites fluid. The antibody may be harvested by withdrawing the ascites fluid from the peritoneal cavity with a syringe.

Anti-CD2 and anti-LFA-3 antibody homologs useful in the present invention may

20 also be recombinant antibodies produced by host cells transformed with DNA encoding immunoglobulin light and heavy chains of a desired antibody. Recombinant antibodies may be produced by well known genetic engineering techniques. See, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,816,397, which is incorporated herein by reference.

For example, recombinant antibodies may be produced by cloning cDNA or genomic DNA encoding the immunoglobulin light and heavy chains of the desired antibody from a hybridoma cell that produces an antibody homolog useful in this invention. The cDNA or genomic DNA encoding those polypeptides is then inserted into expression vectors so that both genes are operatively linked to their own transcriptional and translational expression control sequences. The expression vector and expression control sequences are chosen to be compatible with the expression host cell used. Typically, both genes are inserted into the same expression vector.

Prokaryotic or eukaryotic host cells may be used. Expression in eukaryotic host cells is preferred because such cells are more likely than prokaryotic cells to assemble and secrete a properly folded and immunologically active antibody. However, any antibody produced that is inactive due to improper folding may be renaturable according to well known methods (Kim and Baldwin, "Specific Intermediates in the Folding Reactions of Small Proteins and the Mechanism of Protein Folding", *Ann. Rev. Biochem.*, 51, pp. 459-89 (1982)). It is possible that the host cells will produce portions of intact antibodies, such as light chain

dimers or heavy chain dimers, which also are antibody homologs according to the present invention.

It will be understood that variations on the above procedure are useful in the present invention. For example, it may be desired to transform a host cell with DNA encoding either 5 the light chain or the heavy chain (but not both) of an antibody homolog. Recombinant DNA technology may also be used to remove some or all of the DNA encoding either or both of the light and heavy chains that is not necessary for CD2 or LFA-3 counter receptor binding. The molecules expressed from such truncated DNA molecules are useful in the methods of this invention. In addition, bifunctional antibodies may be produced in which one heavy and one 10 light chain are anti-CD2 or anti-LFA-3 antibody homologs and the other heavy and light chain are specific for an antigen other than CD2 or LFA-3, or another epitope of CD2 or LFA-3.

Chimeric recombinant anti-LFA-3 or anti-CD2 antibody homologs may be produced by transforming a host cell with a suitable expression vector comprising DNA encoding the 15 desired immunoglobulin light and heavy chains in which all or some of the DNA encoding the hinge and constant regions of the heavy and/or the light chain have been substituted with DNA from the corresponding region of an immunoglobulin light or heavy chain of a different species. When the original recombinant antibody is nonhuman, and the inhibitor is to be administered to a human, substitution of corresponding human sequences is preferred. An 20 exemplary chimeric recombinant antibody has mouse variable regions and human hinge and constant regions. See generally, U.S. Patent No. 4,816,397 and Morrison et al., "Chimeric Human Antibody Molecules: Mouse Antigen-Binding Domains With Human Constant Region-Domains", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 81, pp. 6851-55 (1984).

Humanized recombinant anti-LFA-3 or anti-CD2 antibodies may be produced by 25 transforming a host cell with a suitable expression vector comprising DNA encoding the desired nonhuman immunoglobulin light and heavy chains in which all or some of the DNA encoding amino acids not involved in antigen binding have been substituted with DNA from the corresponding region of a desired human immunoglobulin light or heavy chain. See generally, Jones et al., "Replacing the Complementarity-Determining Regions in a Human 30 Antibody with Those from a Mouse", Nature, 321, pp. 522-25 (1986).

Anti-CD2 and anti-LFA-3 antibody homologs that are not intact antibodies are also 35 useful in this invention. Such homologs may be derived from any of the antibody homologs described above. For example, antigen-binding fragments, as well as full-length monomeric, dimeric or trimeric polypeptides derived from the above-described antibodies are themselves useful. Useful antibody homologs of this type include Fab fragments, Fab' fragments, F(ab')² fragments, F(v) fragments, heavy chain monomers or dimers, light chain monomers or dimers, dimers consisting of one heavy and one light chain, and the like. Anti-LFA-3 heavy chains are preferred anti-LFA-3 antibody fragments.

Antibody fragments may also be produced by chemical methods, e.g., by cleaving an intact antibody with a protease, such as pepsin or papain, and optionally treating the cleaved product with a reducing agent. Alternatively, useful fragments may be produced by using host cells transformed with truncated heavy and/or light chain genes. Heavy and light chain monomers may be produced by treating an intact antibody with a reducing agent, such as dithiothreitol, followed by purification to separate the chains. Heavy and light chain monomers may also be produced by host cells transformed with DNA encoding either the desired heavy chain or light chain, but not both. See, e.g., Ward et al., "Binding Activities of a Repertoire of Single Immunoglobulin Variable Domains Secreted from *Escherichia coli*", *Nature*, 341, pp. 544-46 (1989); Sastry et al., "Cloning of the Immunological Repertoire in *Escherichia coli* for Generation of Monoclonal Catalytic Antibodies: Construction of a Heavy Chain Variable Region-Specific cDNA Library", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 86, pp. 5728-32 (1989).

15 **B. Soluble CD2 and LFA-3 Polypeptides**

Soluble LFA-3 polypeptides or soluble CD2 polypeptides that inhibit the interaction of LFA-3 and CD2 are useful in the methods of the present invention. Soluble LFA-3 polypeptides are preferred.

Soluble LFA-3 polypeptides may be derived from the transmembrane form of LFA-3, particularly the extracellular domain (e.g., AA₁-AA₁₈₇ of SEQ ID NO:2). Such polypeptides are described in U.S. Patent No. 4,956,281 and co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/667,971 (which shares a common assignee with the present application), which are herein incorporated by reference. Preferred soluble LFA-3 polypeptides include polypeptides consisting of AA₁-AA₉₂ of SEQ ID NO:2, AA₁-AA₈₀ of SEQ ID NO:2, AA₅₀-AA₆₅ of SEQ ID NO:2 and AA₂₀-AA₈₀ of SEQ ID NO:2. A vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:2 (i.e., SEQ ID NO:1) is deposited with the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Maryland under Accession No. 75107.

The most preferred fusion proteins of this type contain the amino terminal 92 amino acids of mature LFA-3, the C-terminal 10 amino acids of a human IgG1 hinge region containing the two cysteine residues thought to participate in interchain disulfide bonding, and the C_H2 and C_H3 regions of a human IgG1 heavy chain constant domain (e.g., SEQ ID NO:8). This fusion protein is referred to herein as "LFA3TIP." A plasmid, pSAB152, encoding an exemplary LFA3TIP is deposited with American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Maryland, under the accession number ATCC 68720. The DNA sequence of the pSAB152 insert is SEQ ID NO:7.

One way of producing LFA3TIP for use in the methods of this invention is described in co-pending, commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 07/770,967. Generally, conditioned culture medium of COS7 or CHO cells transfected with pSAB152 was concentrated using an AMICON S1Y30 spiral cartridge system (AMICON, Danvers,

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Massachusetts) and subjected to Protein A-Sepharose 4B (Sigma, St. Louis, Missouri) chromatography. The bound proteins were eluted and subjected to Superose-12 (Pharmacia/LKB, Piscataway, New Jersey) gel filtration chromatography.

Superose-12 fractions containing LFA3TIP with the least amount of contaminating proteins, as determined on SDS-PAGE gels and by Western blot analysis, (see, e.g., Towbin et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 74, pp. 4350-54 (1979); *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, pp. 474-510 (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988)), were pooled and concentrated in a YM30 Centricon (AMICON). LFA3TIP was detected on Western blots using a rabbit anti-LFA-3 polyclonal antiserum, followed by detectably labeled goat anti-rabbit IgG. The purified LFA3TIP of COS7 or CHO cells was a dimer of two monomeric LFA-3-Ig fusion proteins, connected by disulfide bonds.

Another preferred fusion protein consists of the first and second LFA-3 domain fused to the hinge C_H2 and C_H3 regions of human IgG1, herein referred to as LLFA3-Ig.

Soluble LFA-3 polypeptides may also be derived from the PI-linked form of LFA-3, such as those described in PCT Patent Application Serial No. WO 90/02181. A vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding PI-linked LFA-3 (i.e., SEQ ID NO:3) is deposited with the American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Maryland under Accession No. 68788. It is to be understood that the PI-linked form of LFA-3 and the transmembrane form of LFA-3 have identical amino acid sequences through the entire extracellular domain. Accordingly, the preferred PI-linked LFA-3 polypeptides are the same as for the transmembrane form of LFA-3.

Soluble CD2 polypeptides may be derived from full length CD2, particularly the extracellular domain (e.g., AA₁-AA₁₈₅ of SEQ ID NO:6). Such polypeptides may comprise all or part of the extracellular domain of CD2. Exemplary soluble CD2 polypeptides are described in PCT WO 90/08187, which is herein incorporated by reference.

The production of the soluble polypeptides useful in this invention may be achieved by a variety of methods known in the art. For example, the polypeptides may be derived from intact transmembrane LFA-3 or CD2 molecules or an intact PI-linked LFA-3 molecule by proteolysis using specific endopeptidases in combination with exopeptidases, Edman degradation, or both. The intact LFA-3 molecule or the intact CD2 molecule, in turn, may be purified from its natural source using conventional methods. Alternatively, the intact LFA-3 or CD2 may be produced by known recombinant DNA techniques using cDNAs (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,956,281 to Wallner et al.; Aruffo and Seed, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 84, pp. 2941-45 (1987); Sayre et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 84, pp. 2941-45 (1987)).

Preferably, the soluble polypeptides useful in the present invention are produced directly, thus eliminating the need for an entire LFA-3 molecule or an entire CD2 molecule as a starting material. This may be achieved by conventional chemical synthesis techniques or by well-known recombinant DNA techniques wherein only those DNA sequences which encode the desired peptides are expressed in transformed hosts. For example, a gene which

encodes the desired soluble LFA-3 polypeptide or soluble CD2 polypeptide may be synthesized by chemical means using an oligonucleotide synthesizer. Such oligonucleotides are designed based on the amino acid sequence of the desired soluble LFA-3 polypeptide or soluble CD2 polypeptide. Specific DNA sequences coding for the desired peptide also can

5 be derived from the full length DNA sequence by isolation of specific restriction endonuclease fragments or by PCR synthesis of the specified region.

Standard methods may be applied to synthesize a gene encoding a soluble LFA-3 polypeptide or a soluble CD2 polypeptide that is useful in this invention. For example, the complete amino acid sequence may be used to construct a back-translated gene. A DNA

10 oligomer containing a nucleotide sequence coding for a soluble LFA-3 polypeptide or a soluble CD2 polypeptide useful in this invention may be synthesized in a single step.

Alternatively, several smaller oligonucleotides coding for portions of the desired polypeptide may be synthesized and then ligated. Preferably, a soluble LFA-3 polypeptide or a soluble CD2 polypeptide useful in this invention will be synthesized as several separate

15 oligonucleotides which are subsequently linked together. The individual oligonucleotides typically contain 5' or 3' overhangs for complementary assembly.

Once assembled, preferred genes will be characterized by sequences that are recognized by restriction endonucleases (including unique restriction sites for direct assembly into a cloning or an expression vector), preferred codons taking into consideration the host

20 expression system to be used, and a sequence which, when transcribed, produces a stable, efficiently translated mRNA. Proper assembly may be confirmed by nucleotide sequencing, restriction mapping, and expression of a biologically active polypeptide in a suitable host.

It will be appreciated by those of skill in the art that, due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, DNA molecules comprising many other nucleotide sequences will also be

25 capable of encoding the soluble LFA-3 and CD2 polypeptides encoded by the specific DNA sequences described above. These degenerate sequences also code for polypeptides that are useful in this invention.

The DNA sequences may be expressed in unicellular hosts. As is well known in the art, in order to obtain high expression levels of a transfected gene in a host, the gene must be

30 operatively linked to transcriptional and translational expression control sequences that are functional in the chosen expression host. Preferably, the expression control sequences, and the gene of interest, will be contained in an expression vector that further comprises a bacterial selection marker and origin of replication. If the expression host is a eukaryotic cell, the expression vector should further comprise an additional expression marker useful in the
35 expression host.

The DNA sequences encoding the desired soluble polypeptides may or may not encode a signal sequence. If the expression host is prokaryotic, it generally is preferred that the DNA sequence not encode a signal sequence. If the expression host is eukaryotic, it generally is preferred that a signal sequence be encoded.

An amino terminal methionine may or may not be present on the expressed product. If the terminal methionine is not cleaved by the expression host, it may, if desired, be chemically removed by standard techniques.

A wide variety of expression host/vector combinations may be employed. Useful expression vectors for eukaryotic hosts, include, for example, vectors comprising expression control sequences from SV40, bovine papilloma virus, adenovirus and cytomegalovirus. Useful expression vectors for bacterial hosts include known bacterial plasmids, such as plasmids from *E. coli*, including col E1, pCRI, pBR322, pMB9 and their derivatives, wider host range plasmids, such as RP4, phage DNAs, e.g., the numerous derivatives of phage lambda, e.g., NM989, and other DNA phages, such as M13 and filamentous single stranded DNA phages. Useful expression vectors for yeast cells include the 2 μ plasmid and derivatives thereof. Useful vectors for insect cells include pVL 941.

In addition, any of a wide variety of expression control sequences may be used in these vectors. Such useful expression control sequences include the expression control sequences associated with structural genes of the foregoing expression vectors. Examples of useful expression control sequences include, for example, the early and late promoters of SV40 or adenovirus, the lac system, the trp system, the TAC or TRC system, the major operator and promoter regions of phage lambda, the control regions of fd coat protein, the promoter for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase or other glycolytic enzymes, the promoters of acid phosphatase, e.g., Pho5, the promoters of the yeast α -mating system and other sequences known to control the expression of genes of prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells or their viruses, and various combinations thereof.

A wide variety of unicellular host cells are useful. These hosts may include well-known eukaryotic and prokaryotic hosts, such as strains of *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*, fungi, yeast, insect cells such as *Spodoptera frugiperda* (SF9), animal cells such as CHO and mouse cells, African green monkey cells such as COS 1, COS 7, BSC 1, BSC 40, and BMT 10, and human cells, as well as plant cells in tissue culture. For animal cell expression, we prefer CHO cells and COS 7 cells.

It should, of course, be understood that not all vectors and expression control sequences will function equally well to express the DNA sequences described herein. Neither will all hosts function equally well with the same expression system. However, one of skill in the art may make a selection among these vectors, expression control sequences and hosts without undue experimentation. For example, in selecting a vector, the host must be considered because the vector must replicate in it. The vector's copy number, the ability to control that copy number, and the expression of any other proteins encoded by the vector, such as antibiotic markers, should also be considered.

In selecting an expression control sequence, a variety of factors should also be considered. These include, for example, the relative strength of the sequence, its controllability, and its compatibility with the DNA sequences discussed herein, particularly

as regards potential secondary structures. Unicellular hosts should be selected by consideration of their compatibility with the chosen vector, the toxicity of the product coded for by the DNA sequences, their secretion characteristics, their ability to fold the soluble polypeptides correctly, their fermentation or culture requirements, and the ease of purification 5 of the products coded for by the DNA sequences.

Within these parameters, one of skill in the art may select various vector/expression control sequence/host combinations that will express the desired DNA sequences on fermentation or in large scale animal culture, for example with CHO cells or COS 7 cells.

10 The soluble LFA-3 and CD2 polypeptides may be isolated from the fermentation or cell culture and purified using any of a variety of conventional methods. One of skill in the art may select the most appropriate isolation and purification techniques.

15 While recombinant DNA techniques are the preferred method of producing useful soluble CD2 polypeptides or soluble LFA-3 polypeptides having a sequence of more than 20 amino acids, shorter CD2 or LFA-3 polypeptides having less than about 20 amino acids are preferably produced by conventional chemical synthesis techniques. Synthetically produced 20 polypeptides useful in this invention can advantageously be produced in extremely high yields and can be easily purified.

25 Preferably, such soluble CD2 polypeptides or soluble LFA-3 polypeptides are synthesized by solution phase or solid phase polypeptide synthesis and, optionally, digested with carboxypeptidase (to remove C-terminal amino acids) or degraded by manual Edman degradation (to remove N-terminal amino acids). Proper folding of the polypeptides may be achieved under oxidative conditions which favor disulfide bridge formation as described by Kent, "Chemical Synthesis of Polypeptides and Proteins", *Ann. Rev. Biochem.*, 57, pp. 957-89 (1988). Polypeptides produced in this way may then be purified by separation techniques widely known in the art, preferably utilizing reverse phase HPLC. The use of solution phase synthesis advantageously allows for the direct addition of certain derivatized amino acids to the growing polypeptide chain, such as the O-sulfate ester of tyrosine. This obviates the need for a subsequent derivatization step to modify any residue of the polypeptides useful in this invention.

C. LFA-3 And CD2 Mimetic Agents

Also useful in the methods of this invention are LFA-3 and CD2 mimetic agents. These agents which may be peptides, semi-peptidic compounds or non-peptidic compounds, are inhibitors of the CD2/LFA-3 interaction. The most preferred CD2 and LFA-3 mimetic 5 agents will inhibit the CD2/LFA-3 interaction at least as well as anti-LFA-3 monoclonal antibody 7A6 or anti-CD2 monoclonal antibody TS2/18 (described *supra*).

Such mimetic agents may be produced by synthesizing a plurality of peptides (e.g., 5-20 amino acids in length), semi-peptidic compounds or non-peptidic, organic compounds, and then screening those compounds for their ability to inhibit the CD2/LFA-3 interaction. 10 See generally U.S. Patent No. 4,833,092, Scott and Smith, "Searching for Peptide Ligands with an Epitope Library", *Science*, 249, pp. 386-90 (1990), and Devlin et al., "Random Peptide Libraries: A Source of Specific Protein Binding Molecules", *Science*, 249, pp. 404-07 (1990), which are herein incorporated by reference.

15 D. Derivatized Inhibitors

Also useful in the methods of this invention are derivatized inhibitors of the CD2/LFA-3 interaction in which, for example, any of the antibody homologs, soluble CD2 and LFA-3 polypeptides, or CD2 and LFA-3 mimetic agents described herein are functionally linked (by chemical coupling, genetic fusion or otherwise) to one or more 20 members independently selected from the group consisting of anti-LFA-3 and anti-CD2 antibody homologs, soluble LFA-3 and CD2 polypeptides, CD2 and LFA-3 mimetic agents, cytotoxic agents and pharmaceutical agents.

One type of derivatized inhibitor is produced by crosslinking two or more inhibitors (of the same type or of different types). Suitable crosslinkers include those that are 25 heterobifunctional, having two distinctly reactive groups separated by an appropriate spacer (e.g., m-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester) or homobifunctional (e.g., disuccinimidyl suberate). Such linkers are available from Pierce Chemical Company, Rockford, Illinois.

Another possibility for cross-linking takes advantage of the PI linkage signal 30 sequence in PI-linked LFA-3, or fragments thereof. Specifically, DNA encoding the PI-linkage signal sequence (e.g., AA162-AA212 of SEQ ID NO:4) is ligated downstream of DNA encoding a desired polypeptide, preferably a soluble LFA-3 polypeptide. If this construct is expressed in an appropriate eukaryotic cell, the cell will recognize the PI linkage signal sequence and will covalently link PI to the polypeptide. The hydrophobic property of 35 the PI may then be exploited to form micellar aggregates of the polypeptides.

Also useful are inhibitors linked to one or more cytotoxic or pharmaceutical agents. Useful pharmaceutical agents include biologically active peptides, polypeptides and proteins, such as antibody homologs specific for a human polypeptide other than CD2 or LFA-3, or

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portions thereof. Useful pharmaceutical agents and cytotoxic agents also include cyclosporin A, prednisone, FK506, methotrexate, steroids, retinoids, interferon, and nitrogen mustard.

Preferred inhibitors derivatized with a pharmaceutical agent include recombinantly-produced polypeptides in which a soluble LFA-3 polypeptide, soluble CD2 polypeptide, or a

5 peptidyl CD2 or peptidyl LFA-3 mimetic agent is fused to all or part of an immunoglobulin heavy chain hinge region and all or part of a heavy chain constant region. Preferred polypeptides for preparing such fusion proteins are soluble LFA-3 polypeptides. Most preferred are fusion proteins containing AA₁-AA₉₂ of LFA-3 (e.g., SEQ ID NO:2) fused to a portion of a human IgG₁ hinge region (including the C-terminal ten amino acids of the hinge

10 region containing two cysteine residues thought to participate in interchain disulfide bonding) and the C_H2 and C_H3 regions of an IgG₁ heavy chain constant domain. Such fusion proteins are expected to exhibit prolonged serum half-lives and enable inhibitor dimerization.

Pharmaceutical Compositions And

15 Methods According To This Invention

This invention provides a method for preventing or treating the above-mentioned skin conditions in a mammal by administering to the mammal one or more inhibitors of the CD2/LFA-3 interaction, or derivatized form(s) thereof.

20 Preferably, an effective amount of the inhibitor or derivatized form thereof is administered. By "effective amount" is meant an amount capable of lessening the spread or severity of the skin conditions described herein.

It will be apparent to those of skill in the art that the effective amount of inhibitor will depend, *inter alia*, upon the administration schedule, the unit dose administered, whether the 25 inhibitor is administered in combination with other therapeutic agents, the immune status and health of the patient, the therapeutic or prophylactic activity of the particular inhibitor administered and the serum half-life.

Preferably, the inhibitor is administered at a dose between about 0.001 and about 50 mg inhibitor per kg body weight, more preferably, between about 0.01 and about 10 mg 30 inhibitor per kg body weight, most preferably between about 0.1 and about 4 mg inhibitor per kg body weight.

Unit doses should be administered until an effect is observed. The effect may be measured by a variety of methods, including, *in vitro* T cell activity assays and clearing of affected skin areas. Preferably, the unit dose is administered about one to three times per 35 week or one to three times per day. More preferably, it is administered about one to three times per day for between about 3 and 7 days, or about one to three times per day for between about 3 and 7 days on a monthly basis. It will be recognized, however, that lower or higher dosages and other administrations schedules may be employed.

The inhibitor(s) or derivatized form(s) thereof are also preferably administered in a composition including a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. By "pharmaceutically acceptable carrier" is meant a carrier that does not cause an allergic reaction or other untoward effect in patients to whom it is administered.

5 Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers include, for example, one or more of water, saline, phosphate buffered saline, dextrose, glycerol, ethanol and the like, as well as combinations thereof. Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers may further comprise minor amounts of auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, preservatives or buffers, which enhance the shelf life or effectiveness of the inhibitor.

10 The pharmaceutical composition or inhibitor may be administered in conjunction with other therapeutic or prophylactic agents. These include, for example, cyclosporin A, steroids, retinoids, nitrogen mustard, interferon, methotrexate, antibiotics and antihistamines.

15 These agents may be administered in single dosage form with the inhibitor (i.e., as part of the same pharmaceutical composition), a multiple dosage form separately from the inhibitor, but concurrently, or a multiple dosage form wherein the two components are administered separately but sequentially. Alternatively, the inhibitor and the other active agent may be in the form of a single conjugated molecule. Conjugation of the two components may be achieved by standard cross-linking techniques well known in the art. A single molecule may also take the form of a recombinant fusion protein. In addition, the

20 inhibitors, or pharmaceutical compositions, useful in the present invention may be used in combination with other therapies such as PUVA, chemotherapy and UV light. Such combination therapies may advantageously utilize lower dosages of the therapeutic or prophylactic agents.

25 The inhibitor, or pharmaceutical composition, may be in a variety of forms. These include, for example, solid, semi-solid and liquid dosage forms, such as tablets, pills, powders, liquid solutions, dispersions or suspensions, liposomes, suppositories, injectable infusible, and topical preparations. The preferred form depends on the intended mode of administration and therapeutic application. The preferred forms are injectable or infusible solutions.

30 The inhibitor or pharmaceutical composition may be administered intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intra-articularly, intrathecally, periostally, intratumorally, intralesionally, perilesionally by infusion, orally, topically or by inhalation. Preferably it is administered subcutaneously, intramuscularly or intravenously. Most preferably, it is administered subcutaneously.

35 The invention includes formulations suitable for use as topically applied sunscreens or UV-protectants. Preferred embodiments include LFA3TIP preparations. The active ingredient can be formulated in a liposome. The product can be applied before, during, or after UV exposure, or before, during, or after the development of redness.

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In order that this invention may be better understood, the following examples are set forth. These examples are for purposes of illustration only, and are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any manner.

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EXAMPLE 1

Subjects

Six adult patients participated in the investigation. Informed consent was obtained after Internal Review Board approval of the protocol. All patients satisfied the major diagnostic criteria for psoriasis, namely chronic papulosquamous plaques of characteristic morphology and distribution. The intermittent use of topical corticosteroids was common among these patients but was discontinued 2 weeks prior to entry into the study. A group of healthy volunteers with no history of psoriasis or other skin disease was utilized as the normal control group.

15 Preparation of Epidermal Cell Suspensions
Skin biopsy specimens were obtained from both normal and lesional skin by using a keratome. The specimens were submerged in Dulbecco's phosphate buffered saline ("PBS") (Gibco Labs, Grand Island, New York) containing 50 units/ml dispase (Collaborative Research, Bedford, Massachusetts). The specimens were then incubated at 4°C for 18 hours
20 and the epidermis removed from the remaining dermis.
Epidermal sheets were removed from the dermis, submerged in Dulbecco's PBS containing 0.5% trypsin (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri), and incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes.
Trypsinized epidermal sheets were transferred to 0.05% DNase (Sigma) in Dulbecco's
25 PBS where they were teased into a cell suspension. Fetal bovine serum ("FBS") (Hyclone, Logan, Utah) was added to inactivate residual trypsin and the epidermal cell suspension then passed through a 112 µm nylon filter (Tetko, Elmsford, New York). After washing the predominantly single cell suspension three times in Dulbecco's PBS with 1% FBS, cells were resuspended in culture media which consisted of RPMI 1640 (Whittaker, Massachusetts;
30 Bioproducts, Wakerfield, Maryland) containing 1% penicillin and streptomycin, 1% glutamine (Gibco), and 10% human AB serum (Sigma).

Preparation of MNC and T cells

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells ("MNC") were isolated from heparinized blood
35 using Ficoll-Hypaque (Pharmacia) density gradient centrifugation according to manufacturer's suggested protocol. Resting CD4+ T cells were prepared as follows. Macrophages were removed by plastic adherence at 37°C for 1 hour. The nonadherent, macrophage-depleted MNC were washed, and then depleted of CD8+ T lymphocytes, activated T cells, B cells, antigen presenting cells and NK cells by incubation with

monoclonal antibodies to CD8 (ATCC CRL 8014), HLA-DR (ATCC CRL H355), and CD11b (ATCC CRL 8026). These antibodies were used as dilutions in PBS (1:200) of ascites fluid from pristane-primed mice.

The antibody treated MNC were incubated at 4°C with 4.5 nm magnetic particles
5 coated with goat anti-mouse IgG (Dynabeads M-450, Dynal, Oslo, Norway) at a ratio of 3 beads per cell. Antigen positive cells were depleted by being drawn by a magnet (Advanced Magnetics, Cambridge, Massachusetts) against the side of the tube allowing the remaining cells in suspension to be decanted. The decanted cell suspension was again exposed to a magnet and cells remaining in suspension collected. Fresh goat anti-mouse IgG beads were
10 again added to the collected cells in suspension in order to deplete any remaining antigen positive cells, and the magnetic removal process repeated. Cells were washed in PBS and resuspended in culture media prior to use. This treatment results in a preparation of resting CD4⁺ T lymphocytes enriched to 99% purity and devoid of intrinsic antigen presenting activity.
15

**Proliferative Response of T Lymphocytes to
Autologous Psoriatic Cells**

One hundred thousand CD4⁺ T lymphocytes were added to round bottom microtiter wells (Costar, Cambridge, Massachusetts) with eighty thousand psoriatic epidermal cells in
20 0.2 ml of RPMI containing 10% human AB serum (Sigma, St. Louis, Missouri). This number of psoriatic epidermal cells per well was chosen because previous experiments demonstrated that this number is sufficient to induce autoreactive T cell responses. After incubation at 37°C in 5% CO₂/95% air for 6 days, 1 µCi of [³H]TdR (ICN Radiochemicals, Irvine, California) was added per well and the cells harvested 18 hours later on a PHD cell
25 harvester (Cambridge Technology Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts). The [³H]TdR incorporation was measured on a Packard scintillation counter (Packard Instrument Co., Downers Grover, Illinois). [³H]TdR incorporation is a measure of T cell proliferation.

Appropriate controls for T cells ("TC") alone or epidermal cells ("EC") alone were carried out using the above protocol. No [³H]TdR incorporation was observed in these
30 assays (data not shown). Brisk proliferation of autologous T cells in response to psoriatic skin cells was observed (data not shown).

In addition, to test the allogeneic response to normal skin, the above protocol was carried out using one hundred thousand allogeneic T cells and eighty thousand normal skin cells. Under these conditions, a brisk proliferation of allogeneic T cells was observed (data
35 not shown).

**Blocking of Psoriatic Epidermal Cells' Ability To
Stimulate Autologous T Lymphocyte Proliferation**

The effect on [³H]TdR incorporation (i.e., T cell proliferation) of an anti-CD2 monoclonal antibody (TS2/18) (Sanchez-Madrid et al., "Three Distinct Antigens Associated with Human T-lymphocyte-mediated Cytolysis: LFA-1, LFA-2, and LFA-3", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 79, pp. 7489-93 (1982)), an anti-LFA-3 monoclonal antibody (7A6) (ATCC 5 HB 10695), or an isotype-matched, control monoclonal antibody of irrelevant specificity (MOPC21, Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, Missouri) was measured using the protocol outlined above in the presence of 50 µg/ml of the respective antibodies.

Figure 1 demonstrates that addition of anti-CD2 or anti-LFA-3 resulted in a consistent (n=4) and substantial (approximately 60%) inhibition of autologous T cell proliferation in 10 response to lesional psoriatic epidermis, as compared to proliferation in the presence of the isotype-matched control antibody.

Figure 1 displays data for four patients only. These four patients demonstrated autoreactivity of blood CD4⁺ T cells to their own lesional epidermis, despite the fact that no antigen was added to the system. This is an abnormal finding; normal individuals' cocultures 15 of autologous blood T cells and epidermal cells do not react. Such a reaction is considered to be an *in vitro* model of autoimmune reactions occurring in the skin. EC preparations from two additional patients were not informative. One EC preparation was bacterially contaminated; the other contained antigen presenting cells that did not induce autoreactive T cell responses.

20 Addition of 50 µg per ml of the anti-CD2 or anti-LFA-3 antibodies to the allogeneic normal skin assay described above also resulted in an inhibition of allogeneic T cell activation. The degree of inhibition was not as substantial (approximately 40%) as that observed-for-autologous antigen presenting cell activity when using lesional psoriatic epidermis (data not shown).

25 Addition of the isotype-matched control antibody (specific for an irrelevant antigen) did not significantly alter the level of T cell proliferation of autologous T cells induced by lesional psoriatic epidermis (data not shown).

EXAMPLE 2

30 Subject

One adult subject participated in this investigation. Informed consent was obtained after Internal Review Board approval of the protocol. The minimal dose of UV B from a bank of fluorescent bulbs (FS 40) required to induce skin erythema in the subject was determined prior to the study. A moderate sunburn (4 minimal erythema doses) was then 35 administered to the left buttock, which 3 days later was the source of UV damaged skin. Skin from the right buttock, which was unburned, was utilized for the control.

Preparation of Epidermal Cell Suspensions

Skin biopsy specimens were obtained from both normal and sunburned skin by using a keratome. Epidermal cell suspensions were prepared from these specimens using substantially the same protocol as in Example 1.

5 Isolation and Depletion of T cells

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells ("MNC") were isolated from heparinized blood of another person, using Ficoll-Hypaque (Pharmacia) density gradient centrifugation according to manufacturer's suggested protocol. CD4⁺ T lymphocytes were then prepared substantially as outlined in Example 1.

10

Proliferative Response Of T Lymphocytes

To Allogeneic UV Damaged Epidermal Cells

One hundred thousand CD4⁺ T lymphocytes from another individual were added to round bottom microtiter wells (Costar, Cambridge, Massachusetts) with UV damaged epidermal cells from the subject, incubated in the presence of [³H]TdR, harvested and [³H]TdR incorporation was measured substantially as outlined in Example 1. This example differs from Example 1 in that the antigenic stimulus is alloantigen, rather than autoantigens that are stimulatory in psoriasis. Thus, allogeneic T cells were used, rather than autologous T cells.

20

Figure 2 shows a brisk proliferation of allogeneic T cells (as measured by [3 H]TdR incorporation) when incubated with UV damaged epidermal cells ("EC+TC").

Blocking Of UV Damaged Epidermal Cells' Ability

To Stimulate Allogeneic T Lymphocyte Proliferation

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The effect on [3 H]TdR incorporation (i.e., T cell proliferation) of an anti-LFA-3 monoclonal antibody (1E6) (ATCC HB 10693), an anti-CD2 monoclonal antibody (TS2/18) (Sanchez-Madrid et al., "Three Distinct Antigens Associated With Human T-lymphocyte-Mediated Cytolysis: LFA-1, LFA-2, and LFA-3", *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 79, pp. 7489-93 (1982)), and an isotype-matched, control monoclonal antibody of irrelevant specificity

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(MOPC21, Sigma Chemical Co.), was measured under the presence of 50 µg/ml of the respective antibodies.

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Figure 2 shows that in the presence of a monoclonal antibody of irrelevant specificity (MOPC21, Sigma Chemical Co.), [3 H]TdR incorporation was somewhat reduced. However, the addition of anti-LFA-3 monoclonal antibody 1E6 or anti-CD2 monoclonal antibody TS2/18 resulted in a substantial inhibition of T cell proliferation compared to proliferation in the presence of the control antibody.

EXAMPLE 3Preparation of LFA3TIP

LFA3TIP, a fusion protein comprised of the first extracellular domain of LFA-3 fused to the hinge, C_H2 and C_H3 regions of human IgG1 was constructed as described in Miller, GT et al. (1993) *J. Exp. Med.* 178:211; hereby incorporated by reference. LFA3TIP was purified from culture medium of transfected CHO (chinese hamster ovary) cell lines by absorption to Protein-A Sepharose 4B (Pharmacia) and eluted with 50 mM glycine, 250 mM NaCl (pH 3.0). Fractions containing protein were pooled and subjected to gel filtration on Superose-6 (Pharmacia) in phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Peak fractions were pooled and analyzed for purity on 12% reducing and non-reducing SDS-PAGE.

1. LFA3TIP Results in a Decrease of the Proliferative Responseof Autologous Mononuclear Cells to Lesional Psoriatic Epidermal Cells

The ability of LFA3TIP to inhibit the response of autologous mononuclear cells (MNC) to lesional psoriatic epidermal cells (EC) in suspension was determined. Epidermal cell suspensions were prepared essentially in the same way as in Example 1 above. Proliferation of MNC was measured by thymidine incorporation. As shown in Fig. 3 there was minimal proliferation with epidermal cells alone. Combination of EC with MNC resulted in a relatively strong response, approaching 6000 cpm. In contrast to the human IgG controls, addition of LFA3TIP, at concentrations between 5 and 0.3 µg/ml, resulted in a consistent inhibition of the autoreactive response. If the counts of EC and MNC alone are taken into account, the LFA3TIP inhibition is quite substantial.

The mechanism of the IgG1 enhancement of EC-induced MNC proliferation is unknown. It is clear however, from the experiment described above, using autologous MNC and lesional epidermal cells of psoriasis, that LFA3TIP results in very substantial inhibition.

2. Spontaneous Proliferation of Lesional Psoriatic Dermal Cells

Fig. 4 shows the effect of LFA3TIP on spontaneous lesional psoriatic dermal cell proliferation. Suspensions of psoriatic dermis were prepared by dispase splitting of the epidermis from the dermis, followed by digestion of the dermis with collagenase, hyaluronidase, and DNase, and filtering through sequential nylon mesh sizing filters. Psoriatic dermis, upon digestion into a single cell suspension, undergoes an increased level of spontaneous proliferation relative to dermal cells in suspensions from normal subjects. The increased proliferation is accompanied by the formation of clusters, which occurs in psoriatic and not in normal cultures. The proliferation can only partly be accounted for by T cell proliferation. There appears additionally to be heterotypic or homotypic adhesion between the dermal cells, some of which may be macrophages and some of which may be stromal cells.

To determine if LFA3TIP could block at least the T cell component of the spontaneous

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proliferation, lesional dermal cells were plated in suspension. Approximately 2000 cpm was observed with dermal cells alone (normal controls generally exhibit between 200 and 1500 cpm). A limiting dose of IL-2 was then added at a concentration that should activate only T cells expressing the high affinity IL-2 receptor (10 units/ml on a daily basis x 4 days). This boosted the counts to 4600 cpm (dermal cells plus IL-2). Varying dilutions of LFA3TIP or human IgG were then added. A reduction in spontaneous dermal cell proliferation was seen with dose responses between 0.03 and 0.003 µg/ml. Furthermore, the LFA3TIP cultures are consistently less proliferative than the human IgG control cultures through the concentration of 0.01 µg/ml. These results provide an interesting and important evidence of LFA3TIP activity on immunologic mechanisms occurring in fresh *ex vivo* psoriatic tissue.

3. Proliferative Response of Allogeneic Mononuclear Cells to Normal Epidermal Cells

This experiment shows the ability of LFA3TIP to inhibit proliferation of allogeneic mononuclear cells to normal epidermal cells. Normal epidermal cells were prepared essentially as described for Example 1. MNC were prepared essentially as described for Example 1. As shown in Fig. 5, epidermal cells (EC) plus MNC demonstrated levels of proliferation of approximately 22,000 cpm. Human IgG appears to be slightly enhancing between 12 and 0.3 µg/ml of LFA3TIP, relative to EC plus MNC alone. However, LFA3TIP between 5 and 0.1 µg/ml, exerted a clear dose-responsive inhibition. Inhibition of Langerhans cell dependent T cell activation models the type of activation that occurs in allergic contact dermatitis, atopic dermatitis and mycosis fungoides type of cutaneous T cell lymphoma.

25 4. Proliferative Response of Autologous Mononuclear Cells to Lesional Psoriatic Dermal Cells

Fig. 6 demonstrates the response of autologous MNC to lesional dermal cells prepared as a single cell suspension. Following dispase splitting of the epidermis from the dermis, the dermis is digested by collagenase, hyaluronidase, and DNase, and filtered through sequential nylon mesh sizing filters. In this patient, the spontaneous level of dermal cell proliferation was low, and induction of a dermal cell plus mononuclear cell reaction could be observed. This is a fairly complex system because the dermal cell preparation has a number of cell types, including macrophages, some neutrophils, antigen presenting cells, fibroblasts, mast cells, and endothelial cells, as well as T lymphocytes. However, it is probably a reasonable approximation of the *in vivo* milieu as the infiltrating mononuclear cells first enter into perivascular interstitium of the dermis in response to chemoattractive signals present in psoriasis. Enhancement of the dermal cell-induced proliferation occurred between 0.3 and 0.01 µg/ml of human IgG control. LFA3TIP inhibited this enhancement, and resulted in a reduced proliferative response between 1 and 0.03 µg/ml. In this dermal cell assay, the

addition of IgG or removal of Fc IgG receptor bearing cells, specifically cells bearing the macrophage and neutrophil integrin CD11b, results in elevated spontaneous proliferation of dermal fibroblasts. To what degree the LFA3TIP inhibitory effect is upon T cell proliferation as opposed to complex Fc γ RIII-mediated macrophage antiproliferative effects on other cell types is not possible to determine. Regardless, the data clearly support a trend in both this and the previous dermal cell proliferation assays from psoriatic lesional skin which is in the therapeutically beneficial direction for use of LFA3TIP.

5. Proliferative Response of Allogeneic T lymphocytes

10 to UV Damaged Epidermal Cells

Human subjects were exposed to 4 minimal erythema doses of ultraviolet radiation, and 3 days later the epidermis was removed and prepared into an epidermal cell suspension. Suspensions were combined with resting, negatively selected CD4+ T lymphocytes which were allogeneic to the sunburned donor. Two concentrations of UV-EC are shown in Fig. 7

15 A and B. Relative to T cells plus epidermal cells alone, or T cells plus epidermal cells incubated with identical concentrations of IgG, LFA3TIP incubation resulted in approximately 50% inhibition. The cells were moderately free of antigen presenting cells (APC's), as evidenced by relatively minimal PHA proliferation, but were capable of responding as evidenced by responsiveness to PMA plus ionomycin. These data demonstrate

20 that inflammatory UV macrophages which migrate into sunburned skin use an LFA3TIP dependent mechanism to induce T cell activation. Blockade of this process should be relevant to photoaging, in that repeated inflammatory activation in the skin is likely responsible for collagenase and elastase activation via lymphokine activation. In addition, blockade of this signaling may reduce the generation of T suppressor cells which these UV

25 induced macrophages generate. These suppressor cells are the one responsible for tolerance in a contact sensitivity mode of UV-induced immunologic host susceptibility to UV carcinogenesis.

Deposits

30 Murine hybridoma cells and anti-LFA-3 antibodies useful in the present invention are exemplified by cultures deposited under the Budapest Treaty with American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, Maryland, U.S.A., on March 5, 1991, and identified as:

	<u>Designation</u>	<u>ATCC Accession No.</u>
35	1E6	HB 10693
	HC-1B11	HB 10694
	7A6	HB 10695
	8B8	HB 10696

A bacteriophage carrying a plasmid encoding transmembrane LFA-3 was deposited under the Budapest Treaty with *In Vitro* International, Inc., Linthicum, Maryland, U.S.A., on May 28, 1987 under Accession No. IVI-10133. This deposit was transferred to American Type Culture Collection on June 20, 1991 and identified as:

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<u>Designation</u>	<u>ATCC Accession No.</u>
λHT16[λgt10/LFA-3]	75107

E. coli transformed with a plasmid encoding PI-linked LFA-3 was deposited under the
10 Budapest Treaty with *In Vitro* International, Inc. on July 22, 1988 under Accession No. IVI-
10180. This deposit was transferred to American Type Culture Collection on June 20, 1991
and identified as:

<u>Designation</u>	<u>ATCC Accession No.</u>
p24	68788

Sequences

The following is a summary of the sequences set forth in the Sequence Listing:

20	SEQ ID NO:1	DNA sequence of transmembrane LFA-3
	SEQ ID NO:2	Amino acid sequence of transmembrane LFA-3
	SEQ ID NO:3	DNA sequence of PI-linked LFA-3
	SEQ ID NO:4	Amino acid sequence of PI-linked LFA-3
	SEQ ID NO:5	DNA sequence of CD2
25	SEQ ID NO:6	Amino acid sequence of CD2
	SEQ ID NO:7	DNA sequence of LFA3TIP
	SEQ ID NO:8	Amino acid sequence of LFA3TIP

While we have hereinbefore described a number of embodiments of this invention, it
30 is apparent that our basic embodiments can be altered to provide other embodiments that
utilize the processes of this invention. Therefore, it will be appreciated that the scope of this
invention includes all alternative embodiments and variations which are defined in the
foregoing specification and by the claims appended hereto; and the invention is not to be
limited by the specific embodiments that have been presented herein by way of example.

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